

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An ink composition comprising a) a liquid vehicle, b) at least one modified pigment comprising a pigment having attached at least one functional group, c) at least one salt having a polyvalent ion, and d) at least one polymer comprising at least one functional group, wherein said functional group of the modified pigment and of the polymer is capable of coordinating with said polyvalent ion and is anionic ~~when and wherein~~ the salt comprises a polyvalent cation ~~or is cationic when the salt comprises a polyvalent anion~~.
2. (original) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the vehicle is an aqueous vehicle.
3. (original) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the vehicle is a non-aqueous vehicle.
4. (original) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the ink composition is an inkjet ink composition.
5. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the functional group of the modified pigment comprises at least one organic group.
6. (original) The ink composition of claim 5, wherein the organic group comprises at least one ionic group, at least one ionizable group, or a mixture of at least one ionic group and at least one ionizable group.
7. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 5, wherein the organic group comprises at least one carboxylate group, ~~or sulfonate group, or ammonium group~~.

8. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the functional group of the modified pigment comprises at least one ionic group, at least one ionizable group, or a mixture of at least one ionic group and at least one ionizable group.

9. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the functional group of the modified pigment comprises at least one carboxylate group, or sulfonate group, or ammonium group.

10. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the functional group of the modified pigment is a polymeric group.

11. (original) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the pigment is carbon black, graphite, vitreous carbon, finely-divided carbon, activated carbon, activated charcoal, or mixtures thereof.

12. (original) The ink composition of claim 11, wherein the pigment is carbon black.

13. (previously presented) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the pigment is a white pigment, a black pigment, a blue pigment, a brown pigment, a cyan pigment, a green pigment, a violet pigment, a magenta pigment, a red pigment, a yellow pigment, combinations thereof, or a pigment having a white shade, a black shade, a blue shade, a brown shade, a cyan shade, a green shade, a violet shade, a magenta shade, a red shade, or a yellow shade.

14. (original) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the polyvalent ion of the salt comprises a polyvalent metal cation.

15. (original) The ink composition of claim 14, wherein the polyvalent metal cation is a divalent metal cation.

16. (original) The ink composition of claim 14, wherein the polyvalent metal cation is a calcium, cadmium, copper, iron, magnesium, nickel, zinc, aluminum, or zirconium cation.

17. (previously presented) The ink composition of claim 14, wherein the polyvalent metal cation is selected from the group consisting of: Ca^{+2} , Cd^{+2} , Cu^{+2} , Fe^{+2} , Mg^{+2} , Ni^{+2} , Zn^{+2} , Al^{+3} , Fe^{+3} , and Zr^{+4} .

18. (original) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the polyvalent ion of the salt is Zn^{+2} or Zr^{+4} .

19. (original) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the polyvalent ion of the salt is Zn^{+2} .

20-21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 1 24, wherein the functional group of the polymer comprises at least one ionic group, at least one ionizable group, or a mixture of at least one ionic group and at least one ionizable group.

23. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 1 24, wherein the functional group of the polymer comprises at least one carboxylate group, or sulfonate group, or ammonium group.

24. (previously presented) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of: polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, copolymers of acrylic acid, copolymers of methacrylic acid, copolymers of maleic acid, and salts thereof.

25. (original) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer is a styrene-acrylate polymer or a styrene-maleic acid polymer.

26. (currently amended) The ink composition of claim 1, wherein the functional group of the modified pigment is the at least one polymer.

27. (currently amended) A method of generating an image comprising the steps of: 1) incorporating into a printing apparatus an ink composition comprising a liquid vehicle, at least one modified pigment comprising a pigment having attached at least one functional group, at least one salt with a polyvalent ion, and at least one polymer comprising at least one functional group, and 2) generating an image on a substrate, wherein said functional group of the modified pigment and of the polymer is capable of coordinating with said polyvalent ion and is anionic ~~when and wherein~~ the salt comprises a polyvalent cation ~~or is cationic when the salt comprises a polyvalent anion~~.

28. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the liquid vehicle is an aqueous vehicle.

29. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the liquid vehicle is a non-aqueous vehicle.

30. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the method is an inkjet ink printing method.

31. (new) An ink composition comprising a) a liquid vehicle, b) at least one modified pigment comprising a pigment having attached at least one functional group, c) at least one salt having a polyvalent ion, and d) at least one polymer comprising at least one functional group, wherein said functional group of the modified pigment and of the polymer is capable of coordinating with said polyvalent ion and is cationic and wherein the salt comprises a

polyvalent anion.

32. (new) The ink composition of claim 31, wherein the vehicle is an aqueous vehicle.

33. (new) The ink composition of claim 31, wherein the vehicle is a non-aqueous vehicle.

34. (new) The ink composition of claim 31, wherein the ink composition is an inkjet ink composition.

35. (new) The ink composition of claim 31, wherein the functional group of the modified pigment comprises at least one organic group.

36. (new) The ink composition of claim 35, wherein the organic group comprises at least one ionic group, at least one ionizable group, or a mixture of at least one ionic group and at least one ionizable group.

37. (new) The ink composition of claim 35, wherein the organic group comprises at least one ammonium group.

38. (new) The ink composition of claim 31, wherein the functional group of the modified pigment comprises at least one ionic group, at least one ionizable group, or a mixture of at least one ionic group and at least one ionizable group.

39. (new) The ink composition of claim 31, wherein the functional group of the modified pigment comprises at least one ammonium group.

40. (new) The ink composition of claim 31, wherein the functional group of the modified pigment is a polymeric group.

41. (new) The ink composition of claim 31, wherein the pigment is carbon black, graphite, vitreous carbon, finely-divided carbon, activated carbon, activated charcoal, or mixtures thereof.

42. (new) The ink composition of claim 41, wherein the pigment is carbon black.

43. (new) The ink composition of claim 31, wherein the pigment is a white pigment, a black pigment, a blue pigment, a brown pigment, a cyan pigment, a green pigment, a violet pigment, a magenta pigment, a red pigment, a yellow pigment, combinations thereof, or a pigment having a white shade, a black shade, a blue shade, a brown shade, a cyan shade, a green shade, a violet shade, a magenta shade, a red shade, or a yellow shade.

44. (new) The ink composition of claim 31, wherein the functional group of the polymer comprises at least one ionic group, at least one ionizable group, or a mixture of at least one ionic group and at least one ionizable group.

45. (new) The ink composition of claim 31, wherein the functional group of the polymer comprises at least one ammonium group.

46. (new) The ink composition of claim 31, wherein the functional group of the modified pigment is the at least one polymer.

47. (new) A method of generating an image comprising the steps of: 1) incorporating into a printing apparatus an ink composition comprising a liquid vehicle, at least one modified pigment comprising a pigment having attached at least one functional group, at least one salt

with a polyvalent ion, and at least one polymer comprising at least one functional group, and 2) generating an image on a substrate, wherein said functional group of the modified pigment and of the polymer is capable of coordinating with said polyvalent ion and is cationic and wherein the salt comprises a polyvalent anion.

48. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein the liquid vehicle is an aqueous vehicle.

49. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein the liquid vehicle is a non-aqueous vehicle.

50. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein the method is an inkjet ink printing method.